

**Amendments to the Specification:**

After the title but before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is the national stage of PCT International application no. PCT/JP2004/004083 filed March 24, 2004 and published in Japanese as WO 2004/086040 on October 7, 2004 which claims the priority of Japanese application no. 2003-080763 filed March 24, 2003, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 15, with the following paragraph:

A reagent, used in this example, for measuring a human adiponectin antigen was constructed as a two-reagent-components system composed of the buffer prepared in Example 1(2) as the first reagent, and the latex sensitized with the anti-adiponectin antibody prepared in Example 1 ± 1(1) as the second reagent.